

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12 AGR-20 SR-02 RSR-01 CU-04 ORM-03

AID-20 /169 W

----- 076040

P R 160900 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6972

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN

CINCPAC

FBIS OKINAWA

CHMAAG CHINA

COMUSTC

327 AIRDIV TAIPEI AS

374 TAW CCKAB TAIWAN/ DOI

CINCUSARPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HONG KONG 4843

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCUSARPAC FOR GPIN- TP

E. O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT PFOR CH

SUBJ: WEEKLY REVIEW OF PEOPLE' S REPUBLIC OF CHINA NO. 20

CONFIDENTIAL

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POUCHED: BUCHAREST, BUDAPEST, JAKARTA, ISLAMABAD, KUALA LUMPUR,  
MANILA, MUNICH, NEW DELHI, PHNOM PENH, RANGOON, ROME, SAIGON,  
SEOUL, VIENTIANE, USNATO, USMISSION GENEVA DISTO , 13 AF MANILA,  
7 TH PSYOP GP OKINAWA, CO AUG 7 TH PSYOP GP TAIWAN, USLO PEKING

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ARGENTINA, ALGERIA

SUMMARY. ON THE PRC DOMESTIC FRONT, MORE INDICATIONS OF HIGH LEVEL CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUING DROUGHT IN NORTH CHINA HAVE APPEARED. POLITICAL SPECULATION OVER THE POSSIBLE REHABILITATION OF TAO CHU IS INCREASINGLY LINKED WITH ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS THIS WOULD HAVE FOR THE STANDING OF POLITBURO MEMBER YAO WEN- YUAN. A MAJOR HIGHLIGHT IN PRC EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WAS THE OFFICIAL MAY 15 OPENING OF THE US LIAISON OFFICE IN PEKING. PEKING' S MEDIA GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO EVENTS INVOLVING TAIWAN AS THE PRC CAMPAIGN STRESSING THE CLOSENESS OF ITS BONDS FOR TAIWAN COMPATRIOTS CONTINUE. END SUMMARY

1. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

USLO PEKING REPORTS OBSERVATIONS WHICH SUGGEST THAT NORTH CHINA MAY BE IN FOR ITS SECOND ( IN SOME AREAS THIRD) DRY YEAR IN A ROW, AND DROUGHT IS REPORTEDLY CAUSING CONCERN ALL THE WAY SOUTH TO THE YANGTZE RIVER ( PEKING 0094). THERE IS SUPPORT FOR THESE OBSERVATIONS IN RECENT REMARKS MADE BY PRC AUTHORITIES MOST CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCERNED. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SHA FENG REPORTEDLY TOLD RECENT JAPANESE VISITORS THAT THE PRESENT OVERALL SITUATION IN THIS YEAR' S AGRICULTURAL EFFORT WAS " FAIRLY GOOD," BUT HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DROUGHT TO THE NORTH OF THE YELLOW RIVER HAD AFFECTED A PART OF THE WHEAT CROP THERE. HE DESCRIBED THE SITUATION IN THE YANGTZE RIVER AREA AS " GOOD." ACCORDING TO A MAY 13 REUTERS REPORT FROM PEKING, PREMIER CHOU ALSO REMARKED TO THE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THE WEATHER HAD BEEN DRIER THAN NORMAL THIS YEAR. ( THE YANGTZE RIVER LINE WOULD TALLY WITH A MAP WE HAVE KEPT HERE BASED ON REFERENCES TO DROUGHT IN PROVINCIAL RADIO BROADCASTS. HOWEVER, SUCH REFERENCES HAVE BEEN RARE SINCE APRIL.)

2. SHA REPORTEDLY TOLD THE JAPANESE THAT LAST YEAR' S SETBACK

WAS THE " WORST SINCE THE ( CULTURAL) REVOLUTION," AND HE SET THE GRAIN SHORTFALL AT SEVEN MILLION TONS. SHA, LIKE CHOU IN THE REUTERS REPORT, INDICATED THAT THE PRC HAD DIPPED INTO ITS GRAIN RESERVES AS A CONSEQUENCE ( HONG KONG 4741).  
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### 3. TAO CHU

CULTURAL REVOLUTION VICTIM TAO CHU MAY BE THE MOST TALKED ABOUT POLITICAL FIGURE IN KWANGTUNG, POSSIBLY ELSEWHERE IN THE PRC, AS WELL. INFORMATION DURING THE WEEK FROM SEVERAL INTELLIGENCE SOURCES INDICATES WIDESPREAD AND INTENSIVE SPECULATION ABOUT HIS POSSIBLE REHABILITATION. MIXED INTO THE SPECULATION ARE REPORTS THAT HE IS DEAD. SUCH INTEREST IN TAO' S FATE IS UNDERSTANDABLE IN THE WAKE OF TENG HSIAO- PING' S RETURN TO PROMINENCE. BUT TAO' S CASE HAS A SPECIAL FLAVOR BECAUSE THE FORMER POLITBURO FIGURE WAS PUBLICLY TORMENTED BY THE CURRENTLY CONTROVERSIAL YAO WEN- YUAN ( WR 10). WHATEVER THE TRUTH OF TAO' S SITUATION, THE PRESENT TALK ABOUT HIM PROBABLY HAS IN IT AN ELEMENT OF MALICE TOWARD YAO.  
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### 4. RELIGION BUREAU BACK IN OPERATION

NCNA MAY 14 IDENTIFIED HSIAO HSIEN- FA, AS " A LEADING MEMBER OF THE BUREAU OF RELIGIOUS AFFIARS." IN 1966, WHEN HSIAO WAS LAST SEEN IN PUBLIC, HE WAS DIRECTOR OF THE SAME BUREAU.  
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RELIGION BOSS HSIAO' S SURFACING TO WELCOME JAPANESE " BELIEVERS" REFLECTS THE PRESENT STATE OF RELIGION IN CHINA: AS IN 1965 IT IS AGAIN BEING OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGED AND USED TO SERVE NARROW STATE ENDS, WHILE REMAINING UNDER STRICT GOVERNMENT CONTROL ( WR 18). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

### 5. MASS ORGANIZATION

DURING THE PAST WEEK, HONAN, HUPEH, HUNAN, AND INNER MONGOLIA ANNOUNCED THE CONVENING OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNIST YOUTH LEAGUE ( CYL) CONGRESSES. THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL OF PROVINCE- LEVEL UNITS COMPLETING THEIR YOUTH LEAGUE ORGANIZATION TO 19 ( OF 29. MEANWHILE, BOTH LIAONING AND KIRIN ANNOUNCED THAT " CONDITIONS ARE RIPE" FOR CONVENING THEIR PROVINCIAL TRADE UNION CONGRESSES. UNCLASSIFIED

### 6. PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP

HEILUNGKIANG' S FOUR NEW CCP SECRETARIES ( HONG KONG 4648) HAVE NOW ALL BEEN IDENTIFIED. ALL ARE VETERANS OF HEILUNGKIANG' S PRE-1966 CCP, WHO FELL EARLY IN THE CULTURAL/ REVOLUTION WHEN SINCE- DEPOSED PAN FU- SHENG TOOK OVER THE PROVINCE. ALL WERE REHABILITATED EARLIER THIS YEAR ( WR' S 4, 11). THEIR RETURN TO

POWER BRINGS HEILUNGKIANG MORE UNDER REHABILITATED CIVILIAN CONTROL, EVEN IF PROVINCE LEADER AND PLA MAN WANG CHIA- TAO RETURNS TO HEILUNGKIANG ( WR 19).

7. NOW THAT LIAONING ( WR 11) AND HEILUNGKIANG HAVE BOTH MOVED REHABILITEES INTO TOP LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, THE STAGE IS SET FOR KIRIN, THE THIRD MANCHURIAN PROVINCE, TO FOLLOW. CHOU KUANG AND APPARENTLY CHANG SHIH- YING AND WANG HUAN- JU ( MONITORED AS CHUNG HSIA YUN AND WANG CHAO- YU)-- ALL PRE- CULTURAL REVOLUTION KIRIN VICE GOVERNORS-- TURNED OUT FOR THE KIRIN CYL CONGRESS CLOSING ( MAY 10 BROADCAST). MEANWHILE IN CHEKIANG, DEPUTY SECRETARY HSIEN CHANG- HAO HAS MADE HIS REAPPEARANCE AFTER A YEAR- LONG ABSENCE. HSIEH APPEARED ALONG WITH OTHER CHEKIANG LEADERS INCLUDING DEPUTY SECRETARY LAI K' O- K' O, WHO HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED BY NCNA APRIL 27 AS A " SECRETARY" ( MAY 4 BROADCAST).  
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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12 AGR-20 SR-02 RSR-01 ORM-03 CU-04

AID-20 /169 W  
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P R 160900 Z MAY 73  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6973  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPOOE  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USMISSION USUN  
CINCPAC  
FBIS OKINAWA  
CHMAAG CHINA  
COMUSTC  
327 AIRDIV TAIPEI AS  
374 TAW CCKAB TAIWAN/ DOI  
CINCUSARPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 HONG KONG 4843

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCUSARPAC FOR GPIN- TP

8. US

AMBASSADOR DAVID BRUCE ARRIVED IN PEKING ON THE EVENING OF  
MAY 14 AND THE FOLLOWING DAY OFFICIALLY OPENED THE US LIAISON  
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OFFICE( USLO), THE FIRST US DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN THE PRC  
CAPITAL SINCE THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT TOOK POWER IN 1949.  
ARRIVING WITH THE AMBASSADOR WERE HIS WIFE AND SEVERAL MEMBERS  
OF THE USLO STAFF TO JOIN THE WORKING- LEVEL GROUP ALREADY IN  
PEKING( WR 14). THE CHIEF OF THE PRC OFFICE IN WASHINGTON,  
HUANG CHEN, IS EXPECTED TO TAKE UP HIS POST NEXT MONTH. THAT  
EVENT MAY BE COVERED IN PART BY A GROUP OF 21 CHINESE NEWSMEN  
WHO LEFT PEKING ON MAY 14 A TO VISIT THE US ( NCNA). ANOTHER  
PRC VISITING GROUP, A 31- MEMBER GYMNAST TEAM, LEFT PEKING ON  
MAY 15 TO VISIT THE US AND CANADA. THE CINESE- AMERICAN  
PHYSICIST YANG CHEN- NING, WHOSE PREVIOUS VISITS TO THE PRC LAST  
YEAR WERE REPORTED IN NCNA(1971 WR 33,1972 WR 25) ATTENDED FUNERAL  
SERVICES FOR HIS FATHER, PROFESSOR YANG WU- CHIH, WHO DIED IN  
SHANGHAI ON MAY 12( NCNA MAY 15). PREMIER CHOU MET WITH ANOTHER  
CHINESE AMERICAN, SCHOLOR CHAO HSIN- NA ON MAY 13. OFFICIAL  
PRC MEDIA HAVE STILL NOT REPORTED ON WATERGATE, BUT THHONG KONG  
COMMUNIST PRESS HAS REPLAYED WITHOUT COMMENT SEVERAL NEWS ITEMS  
ON THE SUBJECT FROM WESTERN PRESS SOURCES.  
UNCLASSIFIED

9. INDOCHINA

DRV POLITBURO MEBER LE DUC THO ARRIVED IN PEKING ON  
MAY 11 ENROUTE TO HIS SCHEDULED MEETING IN PARIS WITH DR KISSINGER.  
FOLLOWING THE PATTERN FOR THO' S FREQUENT VISITS LAST YEAR, PRC  
POLITBURO MEMBER CHANG CHUN- CHIAO MET HIM AND HOSTED A BANQUET  
WHILE PREMEIR CHOU AND THO HELD A " VERY CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY  
CONVERSATION." NCNA ( MAY 12) CARRIED SUBSTANTIAL EXCERPTS FROM  
HANOI' S " WHITE BOOK" CHARGING THE US AND SAIGON WITH  
VIOLATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, BUT THUS FAR PEKING HAS NOT  
COMMENTED DIRECTLY ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CHARGES. ON  
CAMBODIA, PRC MEDIA HAVE CARRIED EXTENSIVE REPORTING ON PRICE  
SIHANOUK' S TRAVELS TO SENEGAL AND GUINEA. THEY ALSO REPORTED  
WITHOUT INVECTIVE US DEFENSE SECRETARY RICHARDSON' S  
STATEMENT ON THE CONTINUED US BOMBING AND THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES' DECISION TO CUT OFF FUNDS ( NCNA MAY 11).  
UNCLASSIFIED

10. TAIWAN

NCNA ( MAY 15) REPORTED THAT THE TWELVE FISHERMEN FROM  
TAIW

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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LONDON  
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SINGAPORE  
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USUN  
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FBIS OKINAWA  
CHMAAG CHINA  
COMUSTC  
AIRDIV TAIPEI AS  
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